

October 21, 1940

The Executive Committee of the N. J. Urban League met on the above date with twelve present and the President presiding.

Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

The resolution offered by Mr. Gillette at the September meeting was referred to a committee consisting of Dr. Konvitz, Mr. Tate and Mr. Brooks for drafting. The resolution now reads:

RESOLVED, That the New Jersey Urban League is unalterably opposed to discrimination against the Negro and racial segregation in the Army, Navy, Air Force and National Guard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the President of the United States, Secretary of War, Secretary of Navy, chiefs of staff, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey be requested to enforce adequate regulations against racial discrimination and segregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the aforesaid governmental officials and military officers, as well as to all other officials designated by the Executive Secretary."

After discussion, motion was made by Dr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Bannwart and carried that the resolution be adopted and copies sent to the proper officials.

The Executive Secretary stated that he had called the governor's attention to the fact that no Negroes had been appointed to draft boards.

The Executive Secretary itemized the proposed 1941 budget, comparing it with the expenditures of 1939.

Dr. Bell, as chairman of the Industrial Committee reported progress. Mrs. Davidson reported progress for her committee.

Mr. Lett made the treasurers' report. It showed.

Cash on Hand	\$507.54
Receipts	841.06
Disbursements	500.66
Cash Balance	747.94
Outstanding Obligations	281.67

Mr. Cramer, representing the Community Chest, explained the Agency Benefit Plan which is being used this year, whereby extra donations and new subscriptions go to the agency designated, over and above the specified allotment. Precautions have been taken to safeguard the regular subscriptions.

After some discussion motion was made by Mr. Tate seconded by Mr. Bell, and carried that the League draft a letter and circularize its friends in order to benefit by this plan.

Subscription cards and circulars for the Dorothy Maynor recital were distributed.

On motion by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Bannwart, the Board agreed that the Executive Secretary should attend the National Defense Conference being held in Washington on October 21, 22, 23.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in the present crisis confronting the United States, our government is in urgent need of the loyal support of every citizen of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the national defense program involves a large industrial expansion with greatly increased labor requirements; and

WHEREAS, many industries discriminate against ~~the~~ Negroes by refusing to employ them either at all, or in proportion with white workers or by the character of the employment offered Negroes, notwithstanding the availability of a large number of unemployed skilled Negro workers as well as the availability of a still larger number of Negro workers for the industrial training now being offered workers generally as part of the defense program; and

WHEREAS, we are informed that the Hercules Powder Company, the recipient of large government defense orders, employs no Negroes as is evidenced by the absence of the name of a single Negro in the casualty lists following the recent disaster at Kenvil, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult to point to a single instance of subversive action on the part of a Negro in the entire history of our country which is evidence of the generally reorganized affection and staunchly loyal patriotism of the Negro race; and

WHEREAS, it is reported in the press^{*} that a male Negro was not only recently rejected for enlistment in the United States Army at ^{but was kicked out of the recruiting} office and advised that he would be notified when "nigger volunteers" were wanted; and this, despite the fact that whether given the advantage of preliminary training to be secured by voluntary enlistment or not, the Negro will be equally subject to active military service with the white man, and

WHEREAS, it has been reliably established that the numerical strength of the Negro vote is today sufficiently large to control the balance of political power in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Urban League is a welfare organization comprising an inter-racial membership committed to a program for the social and industrial advancement of the Negro as being in the sound interest of all our citizens; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the New Jersey Urban League respectfully submit that it is urgently in the interest of national defense that our Federal and State Governments and the Industries of New Jersey shall pursue all proper procedures to prevent the disaffection of the large and loyal section of our American citizenry comprised of Negroes as the result of any form of discrimination in industrial employment in labor or military training, in military service or under conscription as it may be enacted into law or in its subsequent administration.

* See news article

issue of

*See article by Stanley High in the May 21 and June 4, 1938
issue of Saturday Evening Post.